



Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Competition Law and Policy
21st Session, 5 - 7 July 2023, Geneva, Switzerland and online

Competition and regional economic organisations

Thursday, 6 July 2023 (12:00 - 12:30)

Palais des Nations, Room XIX (Third Floor) and online

Regional economic cooperation has become a global trend to foster trade, promote economic growth and development. Regional economic organisations with competence over competition law and policy hold great potential for both developed and developing jurisdictions by promoting convergence in competition legal frameworks, coordinating joint actions and pooling resources seeking to ensure effective cross-border enforcement within the regions.

In addition, national competition authorities have been developing and strengthening cooperative relationships with neighbouring authorities in the same region by concluding, either formally or informally, bilateral or multilateral cooperation agreements among them; examples of those include the European Competition Network, the ASEAN Competition Enforcers Network and the African Competition Forum.

International cooperation is more easily initiated at the regional level, given that countries in the same region may have similar backgrounds and legal frameworks, common interests, mutual areas of benefit and better understanding of each other's needs, which may be prerequisites for effective cooperation. Regional competition law enforcement can fill the gaps caused by the lack of national laws, promote harmonised procedures and enforcement, and closely support less experienced or resource-constrained developing countries young and small competition authorities.

As UNCTAD has recognised the importance of having an international forum to discuss issues and challenges specific to regional competition frameworks, it held a regional organisations meeting in 2021, which allowed participants to discuss the status and development of regional competition law enforcement and the sharing of achievements and challenges of each organization, as well as continuously providing technical assistance to those regional organisations in improving and strengthening their competition law and enforcement.

In this session, recent developments in regional competition regimes will be shared and some specific issues of interest will be further discussed.

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WORK PROGRAMME

12:00 - 12:20

Speakers

- Ms. Martyna Derszniak-Noirjean, Director, International Cooperation Office, Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, Poland
- Mr. Bakhyt Sultanov, Minister in charge of Competition and Antitrust Regulation, Eurasian Economic Commission
- Dr. Willard Mwemba, Chief Executive Officer, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa - COMESA Competition Commission
- Mr. Melaine Cohou Tchokponhoue, Head, Investigations and Litigation Division, West African Economic and Monetary Union - WAEMU Commission

12:20 - 12:30

Interactive debate

Delegates wishing to speak during the session are invited to inform the UNCTAD secretariat accordingly by contacting Ms. Akari Yamamoto (akari.yamamoto@un.org).